

Private Land/Public Wildlife 1-9-07 Advisory Council

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Jamie Byrne 1012 Prairiedale Rd Ekalaka, MT 59324

Gordon Haugen 22 Barclay Drive Bozeman, MT 59715

Donna McDonald PO Box 109 Alder, MT 59710

Doug Schott 2314 Kelsey Lane Stevensville, MT 59870

Land Tawney 720 Strand Avenue Missoula, MT 59801 Senate Bill 44
Senate Fish and Game Committee
January 9, 2007

Presented by Land Tawney on behalf of the Private Land/Public Wildlife Council

Mr. Chairman and committee members, for the record my name is Land Tawney, representing the Private Land/Public Wildlife Council.

I am here to speak in support of Senate Bill 44. This bill would provide additional revenue for hunting access programs and game warden enforcement by adding antelope, mountain lion, and bison to the list of species included in the Supertag lottery program. The Private Land/Public Wildlife Council developed this proposal through consensus, recognizing the need for enhanced hunting access and enforcement, while noting how popular the Supertag program has been, both here in Montana as well as in other states. While some people voiced concerns during the public comment period and within the council that offering unlimited lottery chances might allow someone to "buy" the lottery, the 2006 Supertag lottery sales proved otherwise. Even though one individual bought 1,000 lottery chances, of the five people who drew the Supertags, four people bought only one chance each, and one person bought 20 chances. The purpose of the Supertag lottery is to generate revenue. The Council felt that by adding these species to the list, more hunters could participate in the lottery, while the additional revenue generated would allow more landowners to enroll in the hunting access programs and provide for increased law enforcement. On behalf of the Council, I ask that you support passage of Senate Bill 44.

C/O Field Services Division P.O.Box 200701, Helena, Montana 59620